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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-63. Canceled.

64. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a patient suffering from pain that is sensitive to an opioid comprising orally administering such opioid in a controlled release pharmaceutical composition, comprising

a matrix composition comprising:

a) a polymer or a mixture of polymers,

b) an opioid, and optionally,

c) one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients,

wherein the matrix composition does not comprise a surface active agent,

the matrix composition being provided with a coating that is ~~substantially~~ insoluble in and impermeable to aqueous media,

the coating comprising one or more polymers selected from the group consisting of ethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, polyamide, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, polyurethane, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloride, silicone rubber, latex, polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxyvalerate, teflon, polylactic acid or polyglycolic acid and copolymers thereof, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), styrene-butadienestyrene (SBS) and styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS),

the coating having at least one opening exposing at least one surface of the matrix, thereby allowing controlled release of said opioid by erosion of said matrix surface.

65. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the amount of opioid on a daily basis sufficient to treat the pain in the patient is less than the amount of opioid sufficient to treat the pain to a similar degree by use of an immediate release composition.

66. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65, wherein the degree of pain treatment is measured by use of a 4 point verbal rating scale (VRSpi) where 0=none pain, 1=slight pain, 2=moderate pain, and 3=severe pain.

67. – 68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration 8 hours after oral administration is at least 40% of the mean maximal concentration obtained by the dose.

70. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration 10 hours after oral administration is at least 35% of the mean maximal concentration obtained by the dose.

71. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration 12 hours after oral administration is at least 25% of the mean maximal concentration obtained by the dose.

72. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration after oral administration of a single dose is at least 33% of the mean maximal concentration over at least 15 hours.

73. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration after oral administration of a single dose is at least 50% of the mean maximal concentration over at least 6 hours.

74. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration after oral administration of a single dose is at least 75% of the mean maximal concentration over at least 3 hours.

75. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration 12 hours after oral administration of a single dose is at least 20% of the mean maximal concentration, the mean plasma concentration 18 hours after oral administration is at least 20% of the mean maximal concentration, and the mean plasma concentration 24 hours after oral administration is at least 20% of the mean maximal concentration.

76. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the method comprises administering the controlled release pharmaceutical composition once or twice daily.

77. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, wherein the method comprises administering the controlled release pharmaceutical composition once daily.

78. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the controlled release composition comprises 15 to 300 mg of morphine sulphate.

79. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein said pain is chronic pain.

80. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein said polymer in the matrix composition comprises a polyglycol.

81. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein said polymer in the matrix composition comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, a polyethylene oxide, poly(ethylene-glycol-b-(DL-lactic acid-co-glycolic acid)-b-ethylene glycol (PEG-PLGA-PEG), poly((DL-lactic acid-co-glycolic acid)-g-ethylene glycol) (PLGA-g-PEG), and polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide (PEO-PPO).